

# What does 'care' mean?

Not all children are able to live with their families. This can be for lots of reasons, for example, it might be because their parents have died, or they have been hurt at home, or need special help that their parents cannot give them.

When children are not able to grow up with their parents,

Social Services (which is part of Government) are responsible for making sure they are looked after.

Children might just be in care for a short time or for most of their lives, or they might be in care at different times.

Children who are looked after by Social Services might live:

- With relatives
- With a foster family like Alistair
- In a children's home or unit
- In a hospital.

